



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

North Pima Regional Director's Report February 15, 2013

Statewide Updates

- ❖ During the May 17 regional council meeting, approval of the **Fiscal Year 2014 grant renewals** will take place. In the fall, the council approved the continuation of strategies, funding levels, and funding mechanisms. For continuing strategies, renewal was approved mechanism.
 - Finance team will send renewal packet to eligible grantees by March 8.
 - Grant renewals go to FTF Board for approval at June 10-11 meeting.
- ❖ **Quality First** is experiencing **modifications to the program and public launch date** to ensure best use of funds, wider access to services, and prime communication with parents of young children searching for high quality child care and education.
 - Fiscal monitoring of **child care scholarships** uncovered significant underutilization statewide. Providers will be offered additional scholarships through the end of Fiscal Year 2013. Ongoing monitoring will help prevent underutilization in coming fiscal years.
 - **Public launch** of ratings has been set for week of August 12. Target launch date delayed to allow for Arizona specific messaging research around how can best to communicate with families about high quality child care.
- ❖ The First Things First Board **approved members of the FTF Early Childhood Research and Evaluation National Advisory Panel**, which is tasked with providing oversight to ensure transparency of FTF's overall research and evaluation approach by: Reviewing research and evaluation activities annually to ensure alignment with Panel recommendations; overseeing and critiquing approaches for planned activities; ensuring high quality planning, coordination, and implementation of all research and evaluation activities.

Regional Updates

- ❖ **Harder and Co.** spoke with regional directors whose regional councils are funding the **regional evaluation** work to gather feedback on family survey questions. They want to design the highest quality survey that will gather sufficient amounts of data, while respecting the families' valuable time.
- ❖ The First Things First **State Board** will be **visiting Southern Arizona on March 6**. Are there specific topics about which you would like to converse with the Board?
- ❖ **Cross-regional benchmarking kickoff meeting** is still in process of being scheduled. Related to benchmarking, **data related to indicator #10, families feel competent and confident about ability to support child's safety, health, and wellbeing**, anticipated release date spring; will help in setting benchmarks.
 - Possible date in second half of March. Our program team is developing webinars intended to help prepare for the process of setting benchmarks.
 - Possible Summit session on benchmarking. Encourage our representatives to attend if able.
 - Benchmarking recommendations go to Board April 2014, so there is time to engage in thoughtful process.
- ❖ **Fiscal Year 2013 Expenditure Report** is attached to the packet for your reference.
- ❖ **Fiscal Year 2013 Quarter 1 Narrative Report Summary** is attached to the packet for your reference.

Upcoming Events

- **Early February March? (hopefully!):** FTF Tucson Regional Office moving to a location TBD
- **February 19:** Regional Boundary Taskforce Meeting, City of Tucson Resource Campus, Tucson, 12-4pm
- **February 19:** Early Childhood Partnership of North Pima County, Jewish Community Center, 3-4:30pm
- **February 28:** Southeast Area Cross-regional Grantee Meeting, Casa de los Niños, 40 N. Swan, 10am-12pm
- **March 6:** Southeast Area Regional Councils dialog with FTF Board members, Catholic Community Services, 10am-12pm
- **March 9-10:** Tucson Festival of Books, University of Arizona, Tucson